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AIR FRANCE ASK THE WORLD OF US		

Volume 17 Number 5329

AMMAN SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1993 THUL HIJEH 23, 1413

Price: 150 Fils

## U.N. forces pound Aideed targets, start disarmament

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The United Nations struck back hard Saturday against a Somali warlord accused of masterminding a bloody ambush of its peacekeepers a week ago.

The pre-dawn U.N. air and ground strikes targeted General Mobaamad Farah Aideed's radio station in southern Mogadishu and four of his weapons storage sites on the outskirts of the city.

The flash of rockets lit up the pre-dawn sky as helicopter gunships blasted away at tanks and other vehicles trying to head into the city. The assault continued into the morning.

The U.N. attack was in retaliation for last week's ambush that killed 23 Pakistani U.N. troops and crippled relief efforts aimed at restoring order to this troubled East African country.

While insisting they made no attempt to arrest Gen. Aideed, U.N. officials made it clear he was the target of their wrath and suggested his detainment may come later. Gen. Aideed has denied ambushing the Pakistanis.

An Aideed aide was captured by Italian troops, according to the Italian Defence Ministry in

Rome. The ministry did not release details on the arrest or the name of the aide.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said the allied troops suffered no casualties. He said the attack was "essential to send a clear message to the armed gangs" in Somalia.

The United Nations and the United States refuse to tolerate this ruthless disregard for the will of the international community," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly national radio address.

Mr. Clinton said that while U.S. and U.N. efforts in Somalia have been successful, "there remains a small but dangerous minority of Somalis who are determined to provoke terror and chaos."

"Last night's action was essential to send a clear message to the armed gangs... and to strengthen the effectiveness and the credibility of U.N. peacekeeping in Somalia and around the world," he said.

It was Mr. Clinton's first use of military force. He took over the stewardship of the deployment of U.S. troops to Somalia from former President George Bush, who ordered them there in December.

(Continued on page 10)

## Rafsanjani coasts to second term

TEHRAN (Agencies) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani held an expected landslide lead in presidential election returns Saturday, but the Iranian leader will face daunting economic and political challenges in his second term.

An economy still reeling from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war was on the minds of most voters in a lackluster election that pitted Mr. Rafsanjani against three little-known candidates.

"Of course, Rafsanjani will be the president and many people like him. But one man cannot change everything, especially in Iran. I just hope that he can do something about bringing prices down," housewife Fataneh Kimia said Saturday as she returned home from shopping.

Alireza Askari, a salesman at a pharmacy, was more cynical.

"Why should the next four years be different from the past four years?" he said.

With 10.9 million of Friday's

votes counted — more than half the returns — the Interior Ministry announced that Mr. Rafsanjani had 6.9 million, or 63 per cent. His closest rival, ex-Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, had a little under 2.7 million, or 24 per cent.

One of them, a university chancellor Abdollah Jafar Ali Jasebi, sent a letter congratulating Mr. Rafsanjani on his "certain victory," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

"He wished success for Rafsanjani in materialising the sublime aspirations of the Islamic republic," the news agency said.

The agency did not indicate the percentage of votes counted, but the figure announced at midday would be about 23 per cent of eligible voters.

Final results were not expected until Sunday, the report said.

Mr. Tavakoli, who has strongly attacked Iran's heavy-handed bureaucracy in his campaign for lean, cost-cutting government,

(Continued on page 2)

## Kuwait sentences 10 to death

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's state security court on Saturday sentenced 10 Jordanians to death for helping Iraq's invasion, the second time in a month Kuwait has imposed capital punishment for occupation-related crimes.

The court last week sentenced to death five Iraqis for trying to persuade Kuwaitis to join Iraq's ruling Baath Party during the seven-month occupation in 1990/91.

It also sentenced to death in absentia Kuwaiti Colonel Alaa Hussein Khaifa for agreeing to become Kuwait's prime minister under Iraqi rule. He is believed to be living in Iraq.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) described the 11 as members of the armed wing of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF) and said they had helped Iraq combat Kuwaiti guerrilla resistance forces.

The agency named the 10 as Mohammad Ali Ahmad, 20, Basil Alai Ahmad, 22, Imad Al Din Mohammad Nimir, 29, Akram Shakir Ahmad, 26, Al Mutaz Billah Mohammad Saith, 23, Muntasir Mohammad Salim, 20, Basim Hassana Mohammad, 23, Hussein Rashid, 22, Muayyed Yassin Hussein, 23, Mohammad Isa, 19.

The 10 were also fined 2,000 dinars (\$6,600).

The 11th man was named as Hussein Mohammad Rashid, 18.

The state security court last year began trying the 11 who were all born in Kuwait but hold Jordanian passports, Palestinian sources said.

## New page expected in U.S.-Jordan relations

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein leaves for Washington today on an official visit which is expected to open a new page in U.S.-relations following the election of new Democratic president and periods of strain between the two countries, the most extreme of which took place during the Gulf war and crisis.

Other than meeting President Bill Clinton for the first time on June 18 and conferring with top administration officials, the King will also be holding important meetings with influential congressional leaders and groups.

"The meeting with President Clinton is going to be very important, since it will be first between the two leaders," a Jordanian official said. "But

King Hussein, speaking to reporters here last week, expressed hope that his trip to

the U.S. would lead to better U.S.-Jordanian relations in view of the new administration's declared appreciation of the Kingdom's democratisation process.

The King will be meeting with the full Senate on June 17, an event which was organised by majority leader George Mitchell and minority leader Robert Dole. The King's schedule will also include meetings with the Foreign Affairs Committee (46 members), the Appropriations Committee and the Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations Committee (10 members) as well as selected members in both houses of Congress. The King will also meet with House Speaker Robert Foley.

King Hussein, speaking to reporters here last week, expressed hope that his trip to

then that the Kingdom's "continued commitment to this course of action will strengthen our bilateral relationship."

The King, who will be accompanied on his trip by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and a team of officials and advisers, is scheduled to hold separate meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake.

In the course of preparations for the King's meeting with the American president, a full schedule covering different levels of the decision-making process in the U.S. was set up to include all aspects of bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

Relations between Jordan and the U.S. soured during the Gulf crisis when the Kingdom

was perceived to be taking Iraq's side in the conflict with the U.S.-led coalition partners.

But, according to Jordanian officials, "the air has been cleared largely because of the democratisation process in the Kingdom" and also because of Jordan's full compliance with sanctions imposed by the U.N. against Iraq.

During his stay in Washington, which is expected to continue until June 23, King Hussein will also address the Brookings Institute and participate in prestigious television talk shows.

After that, the King will travel to Rochester, Minnesota, to undergo routine medical checkups after medical reports indicated that he had fully recovered from the operations he underwent in Mayo Clinic last year.

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## Majali reassures speaker on election

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN —

The government and the Lower House of Parliament have a general understanding that the Election Law

would not be changed without proper consultations through official channels. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyat said Saturday.

There is an understanding that "all issues are subject to consultations and exchange of views between the two branches of government.... The election law falls within that understanding," he said after a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the House.

Spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the House

Wednesday, 57 legislators insisted that any change to the Election Law should be approved by the House and demanded that the government call an extraordinary session of Parliament, if it was planning to introduce changes to the law.

Dr. Majali and Dr. Arabyat

said they did not discuss the election law in the meeting, which came three days after deputies demanded that government clearly define its position on the controversial legislation.

Legislators said Wednesday they would seek this clarification through a meeting with Dr. Majali that Dr. Arabyat was expected to request Thursday.

Dr. Majali's visit to Parliament was the first since he took

(Continued on page 10)

## Bilaterals ties focus of King's U.S. visit — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein's main topic of discussion during his upcoming visit to the United States will be U.S.-Jordanian relations including economic ties, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has said.

In an interview with the Lebanon Al Safir daily that the prime minister told the newspaper, Dr. Majali denied that he became prime minister for the sole purpose of giving momentum to the peace process or supervising the coming parliamentary elections.

"Any government — this included — has programmes and objectives and some of these objectives are linked to domestic policy and others are related to external affairs, and it is unreasonable for the government to give attention to one and leave the other," Dr. Majali said.

The two sides complement one another and one cannot be independent from the other, he added.

Referring to the government's domestic policies, Dr. Majali said that he would give due attention to the continuation of the democratic march and will suggest legislation needed for this objective.

He said that the government would concentrate on democracy as a basis for dealing among Jordanian citizens and various groups and factions.

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## U.N. guards to stay on in northern Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — The United Nations has decided that the 300 U.N. guards stationed in northern Iraq will remain there for "at least" another six months, according to U.N. personnel and members of the non-governmental organizations working in Iraq.

They said the decision was made at a U.N. meeting in Geneva last week after donor nations made their financial contributions to the U.N. and the NGOs' work in Iraq conditional on the continued presence of the guards.

"Their prime concern was that the U.N. guards stay in northern Iraq and they made their donations conditional on that point," said a senior member of the British relief agency, Oxfam.

The U.N. decision contradicts earlier assumptions by the government in Baghdad, which had been told by U.N. officials that the guards would phased out because the U.N. could no longer afford their presence in the predominantly Kurdish parts of northern Iraq.

Most foreign observers in Iraq had attributed Baghdad's preliminary agreement to extend the "memorandum of understanding" for another six months to the U.N.'s promise to phase out the guards.

The memorandum is the "pact" between the Iraqi government and all NGOs and

U.N. agencies working in Iraq.

In early May, the Iraqi government was told by U.N. officials stationed in Iraq that the 300 U.N. guards stationed in the north, where Baghdad has effectively lost governing control, would be phased out at 50 at a time.

Baghdad was pleased. Many Iraqi government officials said they felt a reconciliation with the U.N. and the West was about to begin. As if to reciprocate before the U.N./West even made its first move, the Iraqis told U.N. officials in Baghdad on May 24 that the "memorandum of understanding" was being extended by six months for "emergency aid and relief only."

Rehabilitation projects would be allowed on a "case-by-case" situation because rehabilitation projects are often long-term.

On May 25, the U.N. Security Council promptly maintained full economic sanctions on Iraq until its next meeting in the first half of July.

The decision not to lift or ease the sanctions was seen as a let-down in Iraq because there had been "hints" and "off-the-record indications" to officials in Baghdad that the sanctions would be softened, beginning with a permission to Baghdad to import badly needed spare parts.

Permission for flights — possibly to and from Amman — was also discussed during meetings between U.N. and

Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials.

"I expect some loosening of the sanctions on the issue of spare parts and possibly an air route to Amman before the end of the summer," said a senior Foreign Ministry official on condition of anonymity.

Every six weeks Iraq eagerly awaits the Security Council meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York to ease the sanctions. Thus far the answer has always been no.

One of the few recent requests Iraq made to the U.N. has been granted, however. Iraqi officials had told U.N. envoys to Baghdad that Iraqi agreement to extend the memorandum of understanding could be expedited if the U.N. Environmental Programme were to investigate the state of the more than 50 tonnes of depleted uranium anti-tank bullets that the allies left in southern Iraq after the war.

The U.S. Congress has called for special hearings to investigate the effects of the depleted uranium (DU) filled anti-tank weaponry and the tanks laced with DU, in efforts to explain new and unexplainable diseases springing up among U.S. servicemen and women as well as their newborns, according to a BBC programme screened in Britain last week.

While there has been some talk of the effects of the DU bullets left in southern Iraq and their effect on the environment and general health of the population in southern Iraq, no U.N. agency has thus far investigated or volunteered to clean up the radioactive waste.

Iraq hopes that while the U.N. is busy dismantling the Iraqi war machinery it will also oblige in cleaning up the radioactive military waste, officials say.

So at the time that the Iraqis agreed to the renewal of the memorandum of understanding they were expecting that the U.N. guards were being phased out and that the easing of sanctions was imminent.

U.N. and NGO plans

The U.N. Geneva conference gathered all U.N. as well as NGOs dealing with Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan to discuss funding and strategy.

A planned budget of \$300 million to implement emergency and life supporting projects that have already won approval from the Iraqi government and donors was sliced down to \$220 million at the Geneva meeting.

By the end of the two-day gathering, donors had pledged \$50 million. A prioritised list was drawn up in which the maintenance of U.N. guards and so called "survival programmes," especially in the north, came out on top.

The maintenance of the guards cost \$30 million in the first year of their presence in the north. The U.N. has promised to make their stay more "economically viable" by presenting a new budget of \$19 million for their on-going stay.

To the chagrin of many Baghdad-based NGOs and U.N. agencies there is a lobby within the inter-agency group that met in Geneva which is pushing for the use of an U.N. Iraq escrow account to finance NGO and U.N. activities.

NGO and U.N. personnel based in Baghdad were horrified at the thought. "The Iraqis will be furious," said one U.N. official based in Baghdad. "But all was not lost. Iraqi officials have said that a "sub-account" of the escrow funds, which would make it independent of the reparations money claimed by countries and citizens who had major financial losses as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, would be acceptable to them.

While both Baghdad and Geneva were side-tracking the implementation of important and essential rehabilitation programmes, the European Community did agree to fund water and sanitation projects currently being conducted by Oxfam in southern Iraq. The Overseas Development Agency did the same for Care — another NGO.

But Iraq's rehabilitation will not survive on \$50 million or even 10-times that amount, pointed out one NGO chief in Baghdad. "We need long-term commitment on both sides or Iraq will continue to suffer terribly. A short-term solution is like no solution at all."

## J.N. begins airlift to south Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations has launched air drops of food to sites in famine-stricken southern Sudan made difficult to each by the onset of the rainy season, the World Food Programme (WFP) said Saturday.

The WFP, the U.N.'s food arm, said in a statement that it had dropped 14,400 tonnes of maize to the Upper Nile town of Nasir on Friday and planned to drop a further 31,200 tonnes of food to other areas once clearance was received from Khartoum.

With assurances of security from both Khartoum, which demands clearance requests a month in advance, and the splintered factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the WFP said it hoped to reach six towns in a month.

It planned an airdrop food from its base at the Kenyan frontier town of Lokichoggio to the starving town of Ayod in the "famine triangle" on the Upper Nile and Sahr Al Ghazal area.

In Kampala, the WFP said it had extended relief aid to Sudanese refugees in northern

Uganda for 18 months, providing for more than 20,000 new arrivals.

It said that it would provide food aid between July 1993 and December 1994 for 115,000 refugees — up from an estimated 92,000 who so far have fled to Uganda from Sudan's 10-year civil war.

There has been a steady flow of southern Sudanese refugees into neighbouring Uganda and Kenya in recent years.

But the WFP said food drops were hampered by heavy rains.

"Airstrips are regularly waterlogged and muddy, making it impossible for aircraft to land," the WFP said.

Sudan's relief question will be raised for the first time at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo later this month, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said Wednesday.

The SPLA is fighting against what it perceives to be domination of the mainly black Christian and animist south by the Arabised Muslim Khartoum government.

## Japan warns Iran against military expansion

OKYO (AP) — Japan has told Iran it will cancel a development loan if Iran launches a massive military buildup, tries to build nuclear weapons or supports terrorism, a Japanese government official said Friday.

"We know Iran has been extending its military power," said the official, who spoke on the condition he be not identified. "If Iran changes for the worse, we will reconsider economic assistance."

Japanese officials warned Iran that the 38.6 billion yen (\$364-million) loan agreement was signed May 29 that Japan would withdraw the loan if Iran violates Japan's official development assistance charter. The charter says Japan will monitor aid recipients' military spending, development of weapons of mass destruction and export of arms.

The move reflects increasing sensitivity in Japan, now the world's largest aid donor, to criticism that its money is supporting totalitarian governments or regimes that have violated human rights, the official said.

On Wednesday, after hearing U.S. charges that Iran is supporting terrorists and trying to build nuclear arms, foreign ministers of the European Community agreed to consider economic sanctions and keep a close watch on Iran's military buildup.

But the Japanese officials said Friday that more so than U.S. pressure, Japanese public opinion is a major driving force behind Japan's increasing insistence on conditions for aid.

"Since we became the number one donor in the last two or three years, the Japanese people have more interest, concerns and expectations for foreign aid," he said. "Taxpayers are watching... very carefully."

Japan provided aid worth \$10,952 billion in 1991, excluding aid to East Europe. The United States was second with \$9,407 billion. The Foreign Ministry said Friday that Japan spent \$11.33 billion in foreign aid last year.

Japan has warned other nations that continued aid depends on improving their images regarding human rights, the official said.

Japan dispatched envoys bearing this message to China several months ago, to Thailand after a military crackdown last year left 40 people dead, to Peru after President Alberto Fujimori assumed executive powers last year, and to Indonesia after troops attacked separatist demonstrators in East Timor in 1991.

Japan's policy is getting aid recipients to improve their behaviour can be called "sun and cold north wind" — a carrot-and-stick approach, the official said. Japan wants to encourage reforms and moderation in these countries in a cooperative way, but it will get tough if it has to, he said.

The warning was stronger to Iran than to other aid recipients because Iran is a "worse case." Iran responded by strongly denying it was building weapons of mass destruction and by saying its military buildup is less than that of neighbouring nations, but said it "understands the meaning and intentions of the Japanese government," he said.

The response of voters, largely disenchanted with the government's failure to deliver on promises to improve life after the 1980-88 war with Iraq, will not be known until the final turnout is announced.

Diplomats said it would have to match the 60 per cent or so of last year's general elections to be respectable. The turnout at the

1989 presidential election was 70 per cent.

Mr. Rafsanjani said in his campaign that a vote for him was a vote of confidence in his ambitious economic plans.

He has begun transforming the economy along free-market principles and plans to abandon state control of many largely inefficient industries and services, develop agriculture and reduce Iran's dependence on oil.

It said this attitude was illegal and unconstitutional and contradicted recent statements by the Interior Ministry that it had given instructions for registering non-party candidates.

PUMA applied in July 1988 for official authorisation to stand as a political party but said that so far it had not received any response.

The Arag Maghreb Unionist Party (PUMA) said in a statement on Friday the authorities had refused to register its members as non-party independent candidates in the legislative elections.

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## AND JORDAN TOO



A booklet of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

## Team readies itself for human rights meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continued Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and human rights violations committed by Israeli authorities will be presented to the World Conference on Human Rights due to open in Vienna Monday by the Jordanian Chapter of the Arab Human Rights Organisation.

In an announcement here Saturday Amin Shuaib, head of the Jordanian chapter, said the Jordanian team to the conference in Vienna will also raise the issue of the continued aggression on the Iraqi people and their deprivation of basic human rights and needs like food and medicine.

Addressing a press conference Mr. Shuaib expressed apprehension that the conference could witness the formation of blocs, some of which, he said, would be trying to cover up for human rights violations committed by major world powers.

Referring to Jordan's human rights performance, Mr. Shuaib said the Kingdom has been diligent in its efforts to promote human rights and extend assistance to those trying to establish and protect human rights in the Arab World.

Jordan last week announced that it was sending its own delegation to the conference.

Sharif Fawaz Sharaf, Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. Geneva headquarters, will head the coun-

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King meets with army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, the director of the General Intelligence, Civil Defence and Public Security departments, the chief of staff of the Land Forces, the assistants of the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the inspector general and the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force. King Hussein met with Lt.-Gen. Kaabneh and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

#### King condoles Sheikh Hamid of the UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Hamid Ben Rashed Nueini, member of the Higher Governing Council of Ajman in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — on the death of his son Sheikh Abdullah. The King also delegated Jordan's ambassador to the UAE Awad Abu Obeid to condole Sheikh Hamid on his behalf.

#### Crown Prince meets with visiting Pakistani army head

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday received Commander of the Pakistani Army Lieutenant General Shodri Sardar Ali and an accompanying delegation. Prince Hassan and Lt.-Gen. Ali reviewed the situation in the region and discussed issues of interest to Jordan and Pakistan. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai, Al Kaabneh, senior army officers, the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman. Lt.-Gen. Ali was also received by Lt.-Gen. Kaabneh. Discussion at the meeting centred on this situation in the region, the role and development of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in military fields.

#### Jordan to sign tourism pact with Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has authorised Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat to sign a draft agreement on Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in tourism in Damascus later this month. The council also formed a Jordanian trade delegation to visit Turkey and Bulgaria to buy consumer products for the Military and Civil Service Consumer Corporations.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Katia and Dodi Tibban at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Marianne Naerout at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.

#### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Big Red One" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (110 minutes)

## Ministry steps up forest protection

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Afforestation Department Saturday issued an appeal to the public to help preserve the country's forests and trees, noting that of the country's 90 million dunums only about 750,000 are forested.

Azzam Muheisen, the department director, said Jordan loses around 30,000 trees annually because of fires, that is 80 per cent of the total losses. Other factors such as cutting down trees for firewood, clearing wooded areas, to make room for pasture lands and plant diseases which damage trees make up the other 20 per cent of losses.

Referring to the Wadi Shueib fire last week, Mr. Muheisen said the fire raged for 20 hours devouring trees planted on 200 dunums.

Last year's fires, he said, destroyed 4,987 trees on 48 dunums. Noting that the department was taking every possible precautionary measure to prevent the destruction of trees, especially those in the forest, Mr. Muheisen said it is estimated that most fires are started by smokers who toss lit matches or cigarettes out of car windows while driving by forests or during outings in woodlands.

He said fires are also started by picnickers who light outdoor fires to cook food or to burn wastes and litter.

Mr. Muheisen noted that his department has now appointed guards to watch over the forest lands around the clock, including holidays and weekends.

Furthermore, the department has set up control and monitoring towers to watch against fires and has supplied them with special communications equipment and binoculars to survey the woodlands.

## Mix-up blamed for 250 truck hold-up at Lebanese border

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lebanese authorities Friday allowed 250 Jordanian refrigerated trucks and lorries hauling vegetables to enter Lebanon after a three-week hold-up at the border.

The delay, since May 23, caused a good deal of spoilage to the tomato shipment on the trucks, according to Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times that the hold-up was ordered by Lebanese authorities and obviously prompted by different interpretations by the two sides of a mutual understanding on shipments of agricultural products between Jordan and Lebanon.

Agreement to allow the trucks and the lorries to pass came only after the Jordanian government promised the Lebanese authorities that a serious study will be made for allowing Lebanese apricots to enter Lebanon.

Noting that the Jordanian trucks were allowed into Lebanon in groups at separate intervals, Dr. Lawzi said that the affair caused substantial losses to the Jordanian farmers.

enter the Jordanian markets, said Dr. Lawzi.

But the Jordanian government has now allowed Lebanese cherries to enter the local market and has requested that Lebanon allow tomatoes and watermelons, of which the Kingdom has a huge surplus, to enter Lebanon, noted Dr. Lawzi.

He said Jordan is hopeful that the Lebanese would also allow in Jordanian green peppers, cauliflower, and eggplants.

The contacts with the Lebanese authorities were conducted by Dr. Lawzi and Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal, both of whom are now supervising the preparation of a new plan for the exchange of agricultural products with Lebanon.

Noting that the Jordanian trucks were allowed into Lebanon in groups at separate intervals, Dr. Lawzi said that the affair caused substantial losses to the Jordanian farmers.

## Energy ministers see linkage project as boost to region's power production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new world economic challenges require that countries of the same region join efforts to promote economic cooperation and boost energy production, said Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour Saturday. Speaking at the opening session of a meeting of ministers of energy from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey which opened in Amman Saturday, the minister said Jordan and Egypt have already taken major steps towards linking their national power grids, as part of the five-country linkage plan.

Mr. Asfour pledged Jordan's readiness to cooperate with the other four countries in carrying out what he termed as a vital project.

The two-day meeting was called to review draft agreements on the linkage of the countries' power grids, at an expected cost of \$384 million.

Before the ministers are two agreements: one approving the exchange of electric power, and the other, a plan for setting up the power network linking the countries, according to a statement issued after the initial session.

The statement said the ministers will also endorse a plan for financing the project via the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), both of which are represented at the meeting.

Iraqi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Amer Hammoudi expressed his country's enthusiasm for the scheme which, he said, would further enhance ties among the neighbouring states.

Maher Abaza, Egypt's minister of electricity and energy, voiced appreciation to the financiers, noting that the project gives new hope for better social and economic life for the people of the five participating countries.

Syrian Minister of Electricity Kamel Al Baba and the deputy Turkish minister of energy and



Ministers of electricity and energy meet Saturday in Amman to discuss regional power link up. The ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Turkey gathered today for the opening session of a 2-day meeting (Petra photo)

ministers delivered addresses in which they voiced their countries' backing of the project and noted that the projected network will cover 2.5 million square kilometres in area benefitting around 150 million inhabitants.

After signing the agreements, the concerned authorities will embark on the first phase of the project which will be completed in 1997.

This phase, the statement explained, entails linking Egypt with Jordan, Syria and Turkey and requires the extension of cables along 658 kilometres, also carrying 400 kilo-volts of power.

The first phase, estimated to

cost \$130 million, was earlier endorsed at a meeting held in Damascus last year.

The second phase, which is expected to be completed by the year 2002, entails laying cables between Syria, Iraq and Turkey along 658 kilometres, also carrying 400 kilo-volts of power.

Later, the ministers met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali at the prime ministry and briefed him on the progress of their meetings. Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's eagerness to see the power linkage process through to completion.

## 5-day seminar to explore fertiliser industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a five-day seminar on fertilisers starting here Sunday will review seven working papers prepared by Indian and Jordanian specialists dealing with the Indian fertiliser processing experiment and application and the prospects for developing the industry, according to Thabet Al Taher, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Saturday.

The seminar, which has been organised by the JPMC and the Arab Potash Company (APC), aims at benefiting from the Indian experience in producing and processing the mineral, said Mr. Taher.

India is the main importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash. Exports to India of nearly 1.3 million tonnes of phosphate and 350,000 tonnes of potash earn the

Kingdom around \$150 million annually, explained Mr. Taher.

Indian experts in the fertiliser industry have been invited to participate in this seminar because Indian markets import raw potash and phosphate and manufacture phosphoric acid and fertilisers of various types to meet

India's needs of the product, an essential component for agriculture, noted Mr. Taher.

Two Jordanian working papers to be submitted by the JPMC and the APC will deal with Jordan's experience as well as prospects for further production, Mr. Taher added.

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# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية من الأردن

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Fax: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Trip with promise

WHEN HIS Majesty King Hussein and President Bill Clinton meet on June 18, each of the two leaders will use the opportunity to advance the interests of his country. While President Clinton struggles with domestic issues, he can look outwards for a minute and see where in foreign affairs he can achieve a victory for his administration. The Middle East can be a useful area. A deal between the Arabs and Israel seems to be attainable and the president could use his country's clout to help both parties reach an historic compromise. In the event such a scenario materialises in Mr. Clinton's thinking, it cannot escape his mind that King Hussein is a long-time advocate of peace and Jordan is key to lasting coexistence in the region. The King, who has been deeply involved in the politics of the Middle East for the past 40 years and as much committed to peace, is certainly in the forefront of all those who can advise Mr. Clinton on the best way to achieve a regional settlement while at the same time advance the interests of all parties to the decades-old conflict.

Notwithstanding the strain in relations between the two countries that reached its height during the Gulf crisis, Jordan continued throughout the cold war to be one of America's few friends in the region. For that alone, it incurred the hostility of many and paid a price on many an occasion. What the King would want to re-emphasise in this respect is Jordan's principled friendship based on not only the Kingdom's commitment to peace but also on the values of freedom, human rights, democracy and mutual respect and cooperation.

But Jordan should expect from the U.S. to understand the scope of problems that we face as a result of our commitment to the twin policies of peace and democracy. Just as much understanding is in fact needed to get over our differences over the Gulf crisis and war.

If this country is to continue playing the key role that it has played so far in the peace process, our people can afford to be neither punished for the Kingdom's position on the Gulf crisis nor procrastinated by Israel's intransigence in the Washington negotiations. On the latter, Jordan can only take comfort from President Clinton's recent pledge to intervene personally in the peace process to push it forward. On the first count, however, there is much that the U.S. can do to help Jordan.

In stating this, we do not mean to say that this country needs to seek favours from any quarter. It does not. But if there is going to be a new world order, a regional order has to come first. And that is where a strong and stable Jordan can play its rightful role.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, said Al Dastour daily Saturday, are bound to place the Arab-Israeli conflict at a crossroads. These talks will be decisive and could lay the ground for the future things to come, it said. But the paper said that any expression of optimism as we have been hearing from the various parties should be based on convincing justifications. What the Arab side and the Arab masses should seek is concrete progress on the so far unfruitful nine rounds of meetings because it must be emphasised that the only alternative to progress is further tension and instability, leading to very serious consequences for the two sides, continued the daily. In light of the optimism expressed by the two sides, one can only expect from the 10th round to yield very good results and a real change in the Israeli stand, said the paper. Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement, in which he said that the 10th round will witness a change in his government's position, the paper said that no one can predict the nature of such a change, but all hope for a real change, not in words but in deeds, if the peace process is to make a headway. The paper said one thing is certain that the Arab parties which are heading for the 10th round will do all in their power to safeguard Arab national interests.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily tackled the collapse of the Cooperative Bank accusing the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) of being the main cause of its demise. Fahed Al Fanek said that while it is true that the bank's failure to come up with sufficient liquidity is due partly to its failure to collect dues, most of the blame is to be placed squarely on the JCO and its bad management. This bad management has transformed the bank into a liability rather than an asset and caused an annual JD 2.5 million deficit, charged the writer. He said that the JCO withdrew from the Cooperative Bank in order to finance projects and pay the salaries of employees without the least hope of collecting any of the loans to the farmers and others. The writer also charged that Jordan does not have a cooperatives system in the true sense of the word and all the members of the cooperative organisations hope to get low-interest loans which they, most often than not, fail to pay back. The writer demanded an independent judicial enquiry into the JCO management over the past 10 years so as to pinpoint those who should be held responsible for the problems.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

## Few steps have been made, the road is still open

Mr. Ali Suheimat, deputy prime-minister, and minister of transport in the previous government, was the guest of honour and the key-note speaker at a dinner party organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Society the other week. The lecture was about privatisation; it was published two days later by the press, therefore, I do not need to summarise it or point out its salient points. The minister strongly supported the process of privatisation and pointed out the means to overcome the difficulties.

Although we want privatisation to proceed faster and create its own momentum, we find it useful to point out that privatisation in Jordan did not fail so far, and some successful examples do exist.

Privatisation is not of course confined to transferring ownership from the public sector to the private sector. That is only one aspect of privatisation. It also includes the liberalisation of the market and contracting out governmental services to the private sector.

The Ministry of Public Works, for instance, does not involve itself in directly building highways or public offices, it functions through private contractors. Governmental hospitals do not run their own kitchens to produce food, they get it through private catering. The Housing Corporation does not build houses, but offers the job to the private contractors. The Public Transport Corporation started to auction its routes to investors without having to give up the ownership. The spread of private universities is but another example to show that the private sector can explore and succeed in many activities that were thought to be a public sector monopoly.

The problem in Jordan is not the large size of the public sector. The public sector in America and Western Europe may be larger, but it would not get involved in the production of goods and services to the market. This job must be beyond the public sector domain.

The nationalisation of companies producing goods or services for the market took place in the past in order to save those companies from bankruptcy and not because public ownership was thought to be desirable. This applies to the Royal Jordanian (RJ) the Amman Bus Service Company, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company and the Agricultural

Marketing and Processing Company. Now that the reasons for nationalisation are no more there, things should be back to normal through denationalisation of those companies.

During the discussions following Mr. Suheimat's lecture, and after making the above comments, I ask the following questions which I would like to share with the readers along with the comments.

— Why did the government fail to set the proper priorities for its privatisation policy and tried to start with controversial targets, such as the Telecommunication Corporation, or difficult targets, such as the losing and debt ridden airline, instead of the obvious cases like newspapers, hotels, marketing and manufacturing?

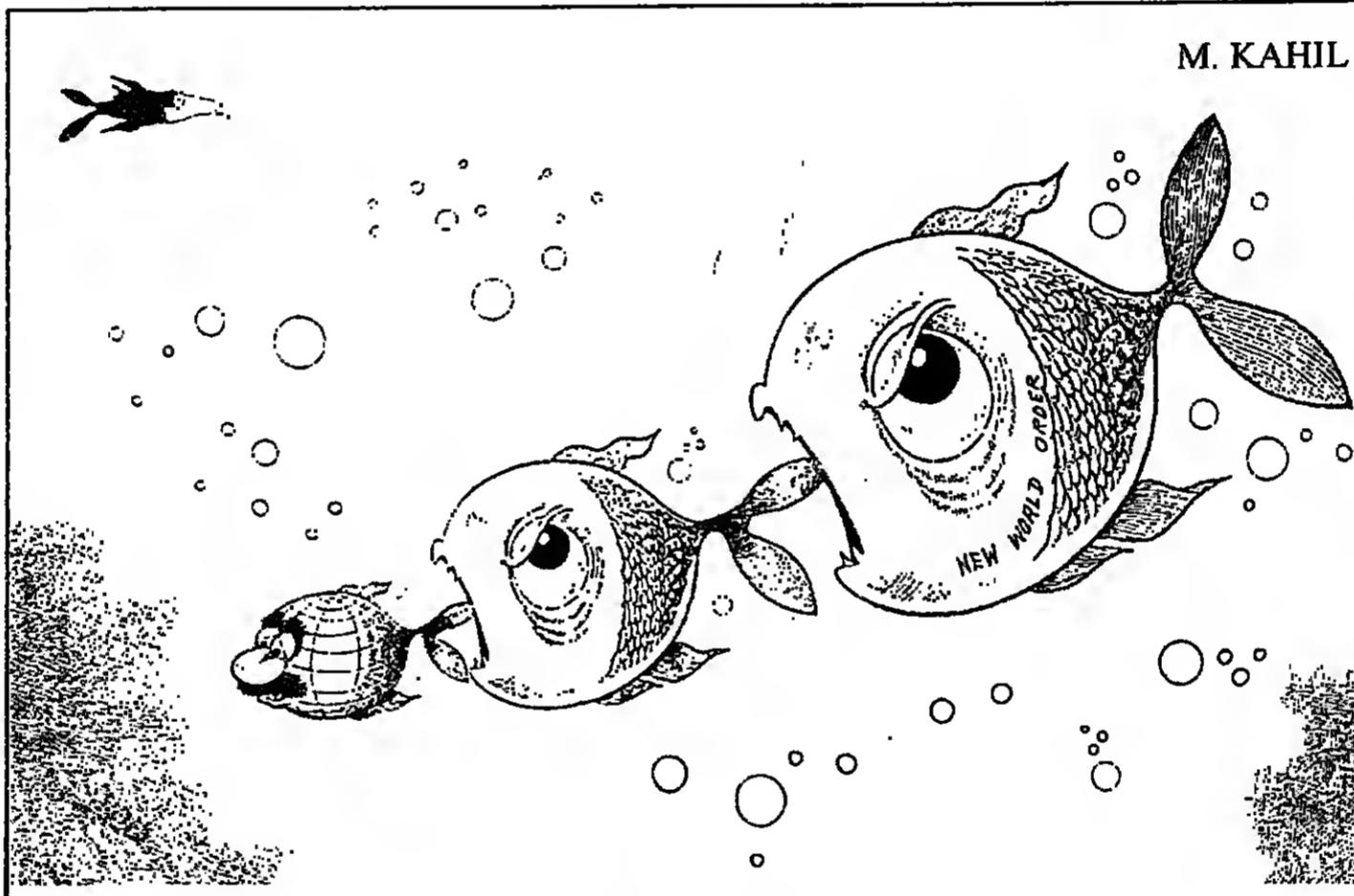
Priority and timing are extremely important. Starting with the ceiling before the foundation is not the right way to go about privatisation.

— Are the investments of the Social Security Corporation considered to be public sector investments, which should be privatised or be treated as private sector investments because they are actually funded and owned by hundreds of thousands of employees in the private sector subscribing to the social security?

— Why don't we start with commercialisation as a step towards privatisation? Governmental corporations and other departments involved in producing goods and services, such as the Water Authority, the Natural Resources Authority, and oil prospecting activities should have audited balance sheets and profit and loss accounts to disclose their financial affairs to the public, rationalise their operations and finances and make them accountable for their high costs and heavy losses?

— Why doesn't the government sell at least 5 per cent of its shares each year at a public auction through the Amman Stock Exchange to avoid arbitrary pricing and guaranteed the ability of the public sector to buy and prevent corruption that may take place upon transferring public ownership as favours?

— Finally, one would like to ask the high-ranking representative of the government: Why didn't his government carry out the specific suggestions and recommendations he listed in his interesting lecture in order to shift to private sector ownership and management and improve the investment atmosphere in Jordan?



'This is Kurdistan'

## Paradise for the keen young ferret

By Michael Ignatieff

TURKEY — Feret has an eager and forgettable young face. He wears interrogator's shades and a .38 in his shoulder holster. He is 24 years old and he is with Turkish Special Forces.

I ask Feret what the Special Forces do. He smiles and says it is against regulations to tell me. But today, he is taking me into the mountain villages where the Turkish army is fighting the "terrorists" — the guerrillas who have been fighting for Kurdish independence in southern Turkey since 1978. He talks American. "No way the terrorists are gonna win. No way."

While he is out assembling the escort — an armoured car and two Land-Rovers full of soldiers — I tell my Kurdish driver that there is a small rodent, with sharp incisors, which London's East End gangsters are reputed to stick down the trousers of their enemies. My Kurdish driver smiles wanly, says nothing.

Sothern Turkey is a land of opportunity for young ferrets. The whole area is like Northern Ireland, a vast military camp: the helicopters drone overhead, Flies on strafing or reconnaissance runs scream over the tops of Kurdish villages: armoured personnel carriers and tanks squat astride every major rural road crossing; in Kurdish market towns, there is a plainclothes man with a walkie-talkie in every cafe.

There are bright shining careers in counter-insurgency to be made here, and there are no obstacles in a clever boy's path. Civil liberties are permanently suspended: you can arrest any Kurdish activist you want; none of your superiors cares how you get your information from the bloodied suspects in the cells. True, there are a few local journalists from a paper called Gundem, who report so-called human rights abuses, but who's to stop you using your gun on them too?

The convoy finally reaches the Kurdish village they think is safe for me to see. There are a hundred poor flat-roofed adobe houses, straggling up a hillside under the brow of a jagged cliff. On the cliff tops, I spot the glint of Turkish binoculars. Down in the village, women are laying ropes

A dozen journalists have been shot already while reporting the dirty war. Another one will hardly be noticed.

Foreign journalists, on the other hand, require special handling. Mind you, they're all hypocrites. Especially the British. They should know that fighting terrorists is a dirty business, but they come here and tell the Turks to be nice to the Kurds. They've got the IRA wanting to tear a chunk out of Great Britain, but they come to Turkey and tell them to grant "autonomy" to the Kurds. Stop the repression? Stop the arrests? It's enough to make any good ferret sick.

But modern security culture is all about good public relations. So the ferret bites his tongue. "You wanna good show? That's what we're gonna give you," he says. Turkey needs foreign friends. Istanbul wants to host the Olympics. Turkey wants acceptance as a European power. As everyone knows, Europe is a civilised and humane place. So it is good form in the counter-insurgency business to tell foreigners how civilised and humane you would like to be.

Even the ferret ventures a few remarks in this vein as we bump our way up the mountain tracks, past the army camps, barracks, airfields and surveillance posts, past Kurdish village women who mask their faces from the ferret's eyes. He allows as how he wished the government spent more on the roads and less on the security. He is surely correct: never have I been in a country which spent more on ferrets.

The ferret finally reaches the Kurdish village they think is safe for me to see. There are a hundred poor flat-roofed adobe houses, straggling up a hillside under the brow of a jagged cliff. On the cliff tops, I spot the glint of Turkish binoculars. Down in the village, women are laying ropes

of sheep's dung on the rooftops to dry as fuel for their winter fires. Children, sheep and chickens are careening down the filthy winding tracks between the houses.

I've come to see the village guards, the Kurds who are armed and paid by the Turkish military, to provide protection for the village. It is alleged that the guards terrorise their fellow-villagers, commit atrocities and blame them on the terrorists. The ferret knows I've heard these stories and I've been shown a thick wad of atrocity glossies. There were many pools of blood, so many glassy-eyed dead children beside their mothers, so many old men with small round puncture holes in their necks that I didn't bother to ask the obvious question: did the terrorists do this, or the ferret, who is gaining upon us, he will kill us?

"What did he say?" the ferret asks in a friendly voice as the convoy escorts me away from the village. "He says the army is doing a great job," I reply. "The rest of the way home, through the prison camp that is southern Turkey, I remain silent.

The ferret is doing Ataturk's work, fighting to keep the unitary state of modern Turkey together. You can't compromise when the unity of a nation is at stake. There is no price that is not worth paying. So pull the balaclava over your face, put the bullet in the chamber, go out and break down some Kurdish doors, pull them out of bed and put a bullet through rebellious brains. Dirty wars are a paradise for ferrets.

With enough terror, you can always stop the revolution in the end. But can you stop a people from believing that this place is their homeland? I leave the ferret at his barracks, double back into the mountain passes, elude my security tail and end up lost on a road at dusk with my way blocked by a huge flock of sheep.

The shepherd is a straight old man burned dark by the sun. He wears two rough unbreathed hides sewn together like the armour of a warrior prophet. His eyes glaze as he strides up to me, pushing his sheep aside with his crook. I ask him where I am. As if astonished that I should not know, he points to the bare burned hills around us, bathed in silver light, and he says in a deep proud voice: "This is Kurdistan" — The Observer.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1993

Bring U.N. into the process

## U.S. has taken the Middle East peace talks as far as it can alone

By Clovis Maksoud

THE UNITED States must take a fresh look at the status of the Middle East peace talks. For nine rounds the U.S. has painstakingly sought to ascertain and define points of divergence and possible elements of agreement. The contentious aspects in the talks remain. In deference to power, Arab parties will most probably resume talks this month. But they will do so with a growing conviction that the process is being routinised, thus constituting a license for Israel to persist in procrastination and provocations.

This is perhaps the time for the U.S. to signal that the U.N. should complete the task the Madrid Conference in October 1991.

So-called realists among all parties have assumed that flaws in U.S. foreign policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict are built in and that by accepting U.S. sponsorship the Arab parties acquiesced to this constraint: The agenda and terms of reference often are set by U.S. administrations; the policy that ensues must be tailored to suit pro-Israel congressional biases; and although minor fluctuations in the degree of bias are at times discernable, any tilt towards evenhandedness is ultimately followed by apology or retraction.

Realists also argue that by dealing with the conflict solely within the context of U.S. sponsorship, it is possible to modify U.S. policy and its role in the process. The paradox: All parties expect to modify U.S. policy in their respective directions. Yet expectations far exceed Washington's capacity to deliver.

The late Anwar Sadat's premise that "99 per cent of the cards are in the U.S.'s hands" now dominates Arab realists' views. The immediate result is to put the Arab negotiating teams in a position where they must argue for their rights rather than ensure Israel's compliance with what the world community has recognised as Arabs' inalienable national rights. This form of Arab "realism" renders meekness a virtue, pleading a pattern, and endless patience a sign of moderation. It constitutes a prescription for an Arab rebellion against any peace option.

In these circumstances, Israel finds that it only has to repack "proposals," "working papers," or "non-working papers" in order to buy time, consolidate Israel's control, and provide the U.S. with the necessary semantic alterations to persuade Arab parties to continue in a process that nobody — not even Arab and American realists — believe can bring a substantive, credible, durable outcome.

In order to pursue a comprehensive and just peace, the portfolio of the nine rounds must become the principal text and basis for the U.N. Security Council to examine, study, and evolve in order to comply with the various relevant resolutions.

The U.S. with its built-in constraints, cannot unilaterally (with due respect to Russia's cosponsorship) manage the peace process. But it can and should continue to play the pivotal role to salvage the peace it assiduously seeks.

The U.S. is no longer alone on Middle East issues in the United Nations. Since the Gulf war, its input in setting the agenda of the Security Council has been decisive. President Clinton has shown a readiness to delegate to the U.N. functions that were treated as exclusive U.S. or Western prerogatives.

Even Israel can no longer consider the U.N. as "unfriendly" territory. Hence the arguments that were put forward by the U.S. and Israel against U.N. intervention are no longer relevant, if they ever were. Who besides the U.N. Security Council can be expected to weigh in favour of an objective, fair, and precise interpretation of its own resolutions which form the basis of the nine rounds and the entire U.S.-sponsored peace process. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 799 await a collective interpretation to allow speedy implementation.

To leave the U.N. Security Council out of this longstanding regional conflict undermines the prospects of peace in the Middle East while making it easier for future violators of international law, U.N. resolutions, and human rights, to defy the world community's will and commitments.

One fundamental issue blocks any consequential step towards resolving this conflict: Israel does not acknowledge, let alone recognise Clovis Maksoud, a professor at the American University in Washington and director of the Centre for the Study of the Global South, is a former ambassador of the League of Arab States to the U.S. and the U.N. The article is reprinted from *The Christian Science Monitor*.

*Site of proposed dam said to be centre of earthquakes*

## Officials, scientists quarrel over viability of Karameh Dam

By Samsan Ghosheh

*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — A special committee formed by former Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker two months ago has yet to end the controversy surrounding the viability of a proposed dam in Al Karameh area, but opponents of the project are still calling for the termination of the plan, asserting that the proposed JD51 million undertaking is not suitable for the country's pressing needs for water reserves.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) counters these arguments with what it says are results of sound research that support the building of the dam, but many Jordanian scientists insist that the JVA studies have overlooked many geological and technical elements that render the project unfeasible.

Opponents of the project claim that neither the seismicity, the geological formation, the soil dynamics nor water quality of the area are suitable for the construction of the dam.

Kamal Jreisat, former director of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), said: "(The Karameh) area represents epicenters of successive historic earthquakes. (It is) a very weak zone structurally speaking."

Abdul Aziz Wishah, director

general of the JVA, disagrees, saying it is not known for sure if this location had been the epicentre of quakes or not.

The proposed dam is located in the Jordan Valley, at 32 degrees north and 35.5 degrees east, an area where six earthquakes are said by experts to have taken place in the last 2,000 years. The main Jordan Valley fault and two branching faults lie at the dam site, Mr. Jreisat said.

Azem Humoud, dam design advisor and quality control engineer who teaches at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, said that many specialists, including the British company GIBB, which designed the proposed dam, expect the occurrence of an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale by the year 2070 and another one measuring 6.3 in the next 15 years.

Dr. Wishah insists that the fears of earthquakes are exaggerated, adding that precautions for an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale occurs then all of Jordan, not just the dam, would be destroyed.

Not true, said Dr. Humoud, who insists that the area of the proposed dam would be the most vulnerable to such an

earthquake. He argued that two sites suggested for the Unity and Wadi Araba dams would better resist the possible earthquake.

Dr. Humoud said the foundation and the right flank of the proposed Karameh Dam would be unstable because the geological formation of the area could not support such a heavy structure.

Though he acknowledges the unstable geological features of the area, Dr. Wishah argues the design of the project would take these problems into consideration and guard against their potential danger.

Dr. Humoud, however, insists that any design would be eventually weakened by the high percentage of gypsum and salts in the rocks, which dissolve upon contact with water, creating cavities in the rocks and the high permeability of the sand layers.

Even if precautions were taken in the design and construction of the dam, the risk factor would still remain high, he said.

The possible existence of sink holes and subterranean caves under the proposed dam area are other factors that both Dr. Humoud and Mr. Jreisat cite as compelling reasons for abandoning the controversial project.

While they admit they are not aware of any studies on whether there are sink holes in

the Karameh area, scientists know of their presence in the Wadi Malaha area, and believe that they may extend to the dam site.

According to Mr. Jreisat, drilling operations in the area had indicated the presence of some type of cavities. And if cavities do exist in the area, "the dam would collapse" in three days, said Dr. Humoud.

Daafar Alem, assistant secretary general for dam and irrigation affairs at the JVA, denied the existence of such a problem, stressing that the designing company and the JVA had carried out studies that ruled out the existence of such a problem.

Scientists and JVA officials concur that the soil at the proposed dam site is composed of unconsolidated fine grain sand that is saturated with water. Once a heavy weight, such as the dam body, is placed on this soil and in case of an earthquake measuring 5.5 or more on the Richter scale, vertical displacement would take place, they say. Dr. Humoud estimates that the vertical displacement in this case would be nearly 10 metres.

He also insists that the constructional precautions taken by GIBB company would bring significant cost increase but would do little to eliminate the problem.

### Very high salinity?

Elias Salameh, professor of hydrogeology at the University of Jordan, said the salinity of rocks in the area was "very high" because the sediments were precipitated from the ancestors of the Dead Sea, from Lake Lisan. Thus, he maintained, the water collected in the proposed reservoir would be high in salinity.

Dr. Salameh said the existence of salty springs and artesian water throughout the area results in salt residues on the soil surface and its composition through the channels, thus, increasing the salinity of the water.

Dr. Wishah commented that it would take 10 years of filling and emptying the dam before its water quality becomes acceptable.

In addition, he said, during this period the dam would be filled with silt, and rocks would weaken due to erosion and the dissolving of salts and gypsum.

Scientists also fear the presence of high concentrations of boron and sulphur in the area, which have a poisonous effect, and the existence of salt domes, which would further increase the salinity of the water and the cavities in the foundation.

The other method, Dr. Wishah said, is mixing water in the dam's reservoir with water from the King Abdullah Canal. However, Dr. Salameh asserted, this is unsound environmental policy because it would increase the salinity of

the fresh water of the canal.

Dr. Salameh stressed that "even if all measures were to be implemented to reduce the salinity of the water, the salinity would remain high." He added that these measures are extremely expensive and require qualified personnel, advanced operation strategies and schemes.

Despite Dr. Wishah's assurances that the dam's water could be used for irrigation, scientists affirm that the water quality would not be appropriate for irrigation for the first five years.

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Wishah, however, says that the proposed dam is the only suitable place for storing this water.

With all these problems, many Jordanian scientists are wondering why the JVA insists on going ahead with plans to build the dam, and why it depended on the studies of just one company.

The JVA offered few answers, but a few find them convincing.

Dr. Wishah explained that the Karameh Dam was important due to its location, which could allow for the highest storage capacity and could irrigate vast areas of land desperately in need of water.

The relatively low cost of the dam is another factor in favour of the dam, Mr. Alem said.

One scientist claimed that the Karameh Dam was a replacement for the Unity Dam, which would be safer, more profitable, has a higher storage capacity and serves an area that has more needs for water.

He added that the Unity Dam is strategically better for Jordan because it controls the water going to Israel whilst Israel will control the water coming into Jordan if the Karameh Dam replaces it.

Dr. Wishah said the JVA still plans to construct the Unity Dam but refrained from further comment on the subject.

Constructing a series of smaller dams along side wadis

that pour into the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers and injecting water in aquifers are other proposed alternatives to the Karameh Dam.

As far as depending primarily on GIBB studies, Mr. Alem and Dr. Wishah said that Jordanian scientists had been approached, but these scientists did not have the "ability to (solely) perform and participate in such a project."

Jordanian scientist refuse this charge, saying that it was an excuse the JVA was using to dismiss their opinions and the opinions of others who are against the construction of the Karameh Dam.

Mr. Jreisat, who left the NRA in March of this year, said until his departure the NRA was not approached to study the Karameh Dam project.

He believes that a "task force" should be formed to carry out further studies on the geology, geophysics and hydrogeology of the area and to produce different maps to ensure that money and effort are not wasted.

"I would hesitate a thousand times before taking a decision to construct a dam in a very weak zone like the Karameh area," Mr. Jreisat said. "What is the harm in waiting four or five months to perform some studies on the area? Why do we need to start building the Dam immediately?"

## Recession may destroy German efforts to become greenest state

By Nao Nakanishi

Reuter

BONN — The worst recession in postwar, Germany may destroy its efforts to become the world's "greenest" country by cutting its output of the global warming gas dioxide.

A year ago, Germany pledged at the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro that it would slash its CO2 emissions by more than a quarter by the year 2005 — the most ambitious target set so far by any government on reducing output of the gas.

But as the recession bites into profits of high cost German industry, Bonn finds it impossible to introduce the CO2 tax it says it must have to achieve the goal.

"In Germany, we have already the highest tax rates. We cannot afford to impose new energy taxes unilaterally," a Finance Ministry official told Reuters. "We must ensure our growth basis. Otherwise we cannot overcome the current recession or achieve an economic upswing in Eastern Germany."

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt shocked businessmen last month when he proposed a new energy tax to finance West German coal miners when the current subsidy programme expires at the end of 1995.

German industry, already struggling with high energy bills, corporate taxes, labour costs and strict environmental regulations, fears the coal-financing tax could be used as the start for a broader tax on energy and CO2 output.

Yet officials at both the finance and economics ministries say they have no intention of renegeing on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's promise to industry that Germany will not introduce such a tax on its own.

Germany, which accounts for

one third of the CO2 emissions within the European Community, is still pinning its hopes on EC negotiations for a common tax on energy and CO2 emissions aimed at stabilising CO2 output by the year 2000.

"We are still negotiating in Brussels very intensively so that we will certainly break the deadlock sometime in the future," said an official at the Economics Ministry. "It is out that there are two fronts. Things are moving."

But with Britain still refusing to accept the idea of such a tax, the EC is unlikely to reach an agreement in the near future, especially as taxes need support from all member states.

The commission estimates CO2 output in the community will rise by around 12 per cent by 2000. It calculates its energy, and CO2 output tax alone will cut this to around eight per cent.

If EC member countries agree on the introduction of the tax, its eventual burden on German tax payers will total some 40 billion marks (\$25 billion) annually.

"We need the tax," said Thomas Stabenow, Bonn's main negotiator on environmental policy in the EC.

"We have a whole set of measures to achieve our goal on CO2 emissions but no component can be lacking."

German industry says the tax will do little to curb its CO2 output, while giving a fatal blow to energy-intensive sectors.

The BDI says it will draft its own obligatory CO2 reducing scheme if the government exempts it from the tax on energy and CO2 emissions.

It says it will also invest in other countries, such as in Eastern Europe, where the same amount of investment would bring larger cuts in the output of the harmful gas than in Germany.

## Minority European languages fight for survival

By Patrick Lannin.

Reuter

BRUSSELS — From the Arvanites and Aromounes in Greece, via Italy's Ladins and Friulans to the Sorbs in Germany, linguistic minorities all over Europe are fighting for their survival.

Nine languages are recognised as official languages of the European Community but the continent's linguistic map is much more colourful, with around 35 languages spoken by various sizes of groups scattered throughout the continent.

The European Commission, far from wishing to snuff them out as the EC moves towards a single Europe, has been promoting measures to help them survive and find examples of how language policy can be developed," Mr. van der Goot said.

Pockets of minorities, some of them tiny, exist throughout Europe. Some of the smallest are in southern Italy, where a population of around 3,000 Croatian speakers and 5,000 Greeks live.

In the north of Italy, on the border with Austria, are areas of Ladins and Friulian, spoken by an estimated 30,000 and 500,000 people respectively.

Several patches of Slavic peoples are scattered in northeast Greece, such as the Pomaks. The Aromounes, who speak a language close to Romanian, live in the most mountainous regions of Greece and the Arvanites, whose language belongs to the Indo-Germanic family, in central and southern Greece.

Against these precarious and scattered language minorities are the larger and more established lesser used languages — Welsh

and Scots Gaelic in Britain, spoken by around 500,000 and 79,000 respectively and Catalan in Spain, where the language is widely used by Catalonia's six million population.

The aim of the bureau is to increase the expertise of regional authorities, the media and activists in developing programmes to help the minority languages survive.

Mr. van der Goot gave the example of Friesland in the northern Netherlands, where the local government started a pro-

gramme in which elderly native-language speakers "adopted" non-Frisian speakers and helped them learn the language during lessons several times a week.

The bureau also organises study trips, when people from minorities visit other minority regions. The workers in the bureau are themselves from lesser used language areas.

"Even a well established minority as in Ireland needs support, needs advice and needs stimulus from other regions."

Mr. Van der Goot, a Frisian, added.

The Irish television company RTE turned to the bureau for help when it wanted to start up an Irish-language channel.

The bureau has four main centres — one in Friesland collating information on education issues, an office in Barcelona collecting data on legislation relating to lesser used languages, a general studies centre near Paris and a media bureau in the Welsh town of Aberystwyth.

The Brussels office tries to

coordinate these activities and is working on a database where this information is collected.

Mr. Van der Goot is a passionate defender of the rights of members of small language groups to exist and receive help.

"We are very aware that we cannot say we need free television stations for a language that is only spoken by around 5,000 people," he said. "What we want is to be part of modern society and to get the money that is necessary to survive."

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# Economy

## Boeing sees up to \$100b Superjumbo market

PARIS (R) — Boeing Co., Friday, predicted \$50 billion to \$100 billion market for a 600-seat "Superjumbo" jet, saying the plane would cost at least as much as the \$145 million to \$160 million price tag on its current 747.

"It is inconceivable to build an airplane 40 to 50 per cent larger than a 747 in the number of seats and expect the price to be any less," Boeing Vice President John Hayhurst told Reuters in an interview during the Paris Air Show.

Mr. Hayhurst, the Boeing executive in charge of a feasibility study on the plane, said the overall market for such an aircraft

would be worth a minimum of \$50 billion but could range as high as \$100 billion.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Boeing was considering pricing the 600-seat plane at a minimum of \$100 to \$125 million, below the 400-seat current 747 model's cost.

Boeing and the four firms that make up the Airbus Industrie consortium — but not Airbus itself — in January agreed to study the feasibility of together developing an all-new aircraft to seat anywhere from 550 to 800 people.

The group, which includes Aerospatiale of France, British

Aerospace PLC, Deutsche Aerospace of Germany and Construcciones Aeronauticas of Spain, has said it believes there is a market for 400 to 500 of the 600-seat planes by the year 2010.

Despite the relatively high dollar value of such a market, Boeing officials say they believe it is only big enough for one aircraft, hence their cooperation with the Airbus partners.

"Our suspicion is that it is a relatively small market and a very expensive one, beyond the ability of any one company to handle," Boeing President Phil Condit told a news conference. "So... what is called a natural

monopoly develops," he added. "In other words, it is a small market that needs the cooperation of multiple players."

Mr. Condit said that if a Boeing-Europe group decides to build the plane, anti-trust and competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic would have to decide if the market was small enough to justify the firms working together.

"Obviously if there is a great big market, the answer is much different," Mr. Condit said.

For competition authorities, the potential difficulty is that the firms would be able to charge

monopoly prices for the aircraft. Mr. Hayhurst said the Boeing-Europe group is far from the day when they will decide whether to build the plane and how much it will cost, saying the pricing is at least several years off.

Boeing officials say that the group will decide in January simply whether to proceed with their study, but stressed that that is far from a choice to manufacture the aircraft.

"This plane is a long way away," Mr. Hayhurst said.

"We're not worried about setting the price yet. In the end the market will determine the price."

## Mideast countries get less development aid from Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's official development aid (ODA) in 1992 amounted to \$11.33 billion, up 2.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to a government report released Friday.

In the five-year period to 1992, Japan's total ODA value reached \$49.7 billion, just below the government's target of \$50 billion, it said.

The report said disbursements to Asian nations had sharply increased to 65.1 per cent of the total, up from 50.1 per cent the previous year, while Middle East nations' share fell from 20.4 per

cent to 4.3 per cent.

The decrease in ODA to Middle East nations was chiefly due to an increase in loans to the region in the previous year in the wake of the Gulf war, the report said.

Excluding aid to Eastern Europe, the ratio of Japan's ODA to its gross national product — the nation's total output of goods and services — came to 0.3 per cent in 1992, down from 0.32 per cent in 1991.

## China gets serious in fight against overheating economy

PEKING (Agencies) — The Chinese government has moved to rein in breakneck economic growth, ordering all unauthorised construction projects to be postponed or halted and laying down new credit restrictions.

A circular, issued by the State Council (cabinet) and published here Saturday, said that a nationwide shortage of capital had become a "prominent problem" in economic growth.

It called on local governments to examine all construction projects to determine their viability. Projects violating state industrial policy would be ruled off or postponed, as would those without reliable financial sources, ready conditions for construction or market potential.

Similarly, the circular demanded banks limit or stop lending to businesses that have raised funds in violation of state regulations or that have diverted loans for real estate speculation and share purchases.

Credit from all government organisations, banks and state investment firms would instead be concentrated on infrastructural projects in sectors such as communications, transportation, energy, raw materials, agriculture and water conservancy.

All local governments were required to report to the State Council before the end of next month on the implementation of the circular.

The central government is currently drawing up a plan to further restrict credit while at the same time freezing prices. Chinese economists say the plan is expected to be discussed in August by the top leadership and the circular was seen as a first step toward its

realisation.

But the circular sounded more like a plea than an order, reflecting the growing weakness of the central government as China's shift to a market economy forces Peking to grant more powers to the provinces.

The government has failed to slow growth despite repeated attempts since late last year. China's economy grew by 14.1 per cent in the first quarter, pushing urban inflation up to 15.7 per cent. Consumers are once again grumbling about price hikes and many are rushing to convert their savings into durable goods.

Last month, however, the government raised bank lending and saving rates in an effort to control inflation, which is now running at its highest rate since 1988.

The circular paid particular attention to the agricultural sector. Farmers are upset with unreasonable taxes and the state's failure to pay for grain with cash, and on several occasions this year have protested.

Local officials would be held responsible if agricultural loans and funds were misused or withheld, it said.

Priority was also to be given to state-run companies.

China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who triggered a boom that has led to the world's fastest economic growth rate, has warned against letting the economy spin out of control, a Peking newspaper said Friday.

The Communist Party's top policy-making body will meet shortly to tackle the problems caused by the economy charging ahead at rates that surpassed 14 per cent in the first quarter this year, the Hong Kong-based Wen

Wei Po said.

The chief problem is inflation, which even by official figures is more than 17 per cent in key cities.

The Central Committee, made up of 189 people at the top of China's power pyramid, will meet either at the end of June or the beginning of July to focus on economic issues, the newspaper said.

The newspaper is often used by China to release sensitive information.

A Communist Party spokeswoman would not confirm or deny the report.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Deng, who will be 89 this summer, as repeatedly warning that "emphasising speed does not mean encouraging unreasonable speed. We still must be down-to-earth and demand efficient, coordinated and stable development. Huge ups and downs are not beneficial to maintaining the steady development of the economy."

Previous warnings by economists and officials that China had to take action to stop the economy from overheating have been muted because no one dared to go against Mr. Deng's order for fast growth.

If he has now agreed to the need to slow the economy down slightly, the government may be able to take more effective action against the runaway pace of investment that is helping send inflation to its highest levels since 1986-1989.

While Chinese leaders are determined to maintain fast growth, they want to avoid spiraling inflation at all costs.

The last time China's economy

overheated, popular discontent helped spark the pro-democracy demonstrations of Tiananmen Square, on June 4, 1989.

The Wen Wei Po quoted Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin as urging officials at all levels "to be fully aware of the problems arising in the course of development, to be highly vigilant and have a sense of urgency."

Mr. Jiang, who heads the army and is China's president in addition to leading the world's largest Communist Party, is trying to take on the role of interpreting Mr. Deng's wishes, the article made clear.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Jiang as saying economic problems had to be solved in order not to let Mr. Deng down.

Whether the central government and Communist Party officials will be able to wrestle control of the economy back from the coastal and southern provinces that are profiting most from the boom is an open question, analysts said.

"They are trying to carve out a middle ground between boom and bust for themselves, but I'm not so confident they will be able to be effective," said a Western diplomat.

Sources said the bank's shareholders were looking at the possibility of keeping Mr. Attali as a figurehead and appointing Ernest Stern, currently one of the managing directors of the World Bank, currently one of the managing directors of the World Bank, to oversee the operations in both that current merchant banking and development banking fields.

This would leave Mario Sarcinelli, currently head of development banking and apparently disappointed that he has not figured in the recent government changes.

## Attali proposes regional structure for troubled EBRD

LONDON (R) — Jacques Attali, head of the troubled bank set up to help Europe's transition to market economics and democracy, has floated a proposal that the bank be reorganised along regional lines to improve efficiency.

Sources at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said Friday that Mr. Attali had proposed a division into three regions — North Central Europe, South Central Europe and the former Soviet European shareholders.

Mr. Bentsen's statement came after the U.S. Congress had refused to agree to spend \$70 million on the country's latest subscription to the EBRD.

The EBRD board is in the middle of a major inquiry into the bank's \$55 million spending on its lavish London headquarters. The result of the report is expected around the middle of next month. But the board is expected to reconvene in the next couple of weeks to give its reaction to the ideas presented by Mr. Attali.

The bank has come under intense pressure in recent months. Facing criticism over the amount of money spent on its new headquarters, private jets hired by Mr. Attali and the level of lending done in its first two years.

Sources close to the bank were unsure what the reaction of the shareholder governments will be to the proposed changes.

"It's clear that at this stage we must reconsider the way the bank is run," said one of the directors, who declined to be named. "It seems clear that, after everything that has happened, we need someone new to run the bank's operations. That will leave Attali to do what he does best — publicise the bank and travel in the recent government changes."

## World Bank says redistribution vital to S. Africa future

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa, mired in its longest recession on record, could enjoy rapid growth in the early years of a post-apartheid government, but benefits must be shared fairly to sustain this, the World Bank said.

The bank, in a report by its southern Africa department, said most of the country's economic, as well as political, problems were rooted in apartheid.

No economic programme, however well designed, could succeed without increased social stability, said the report.

"If gains from growth are not perceived as being distributed equitably by the community at large, social unrest will reemerge, and political and economic stability will be undermined," it said.

The bank said the report was addressed from informal discussion papers prepared by its staff and a wide range of South Africans, and was not an official bank document.

The report said South Africa's

income per capita of \$2,500 a year puts it among upper, middle-income developing countries.

But, that for whites was almost 10 times higher than for blacks, and 4.5 times higher than for mixed race citizens.

And wide disparities ranged from access to services including water, sanitation, electricity, education and health, to social welfare in areas such as infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.

The extremes, it said, "tend to confirm that there are really two South Africas — a first world society for whites and a Third World society for blacks."

Key problems which had to be addressed ranged from high unemployment — one-quarter of the black labour force was without work — to declines in investment and productivity, while its trade regime was biased towards production for the home market rather than internationally competitive exports.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A milky idea, that for the good of all concerned, is best forgotten. Be sure to keep all your appointments even though you may want to change your plans after lunch with relatives.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Use charm during the daytime to make your environment more attractive while in the evening some difficult situation could occur in the outside world.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Think about and then enjoy the pleasures you like most until the sun goes down when you find newcomers and interests to be disappointing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You have a good chance to have a greater accord at your residence so do what charms your family and tonight do nothing to upset your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

A communication or writing brings much delight during the daytime hours but tonight make sure you avoid a cold and calculating associate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Think about what you can do to make your possessions more attractive during the day but tonight you find any work matter has difficult results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Gain the good will of outside contacts now by showing your willingness to coordinate efforts with them, later a determined friend can make tonight difficult.

## Bank of Italy cuts key interest rates

MILAN (R) — Italy announced cuts in its key lending rates of half a percentage point Friday, taking advantage of a stronger lira to help ease the pain of recession and the burden of its huge public debt.

The timing of the reduction, which drops the discount rate to 10 per cent and the fixed advances or Lombard rate to 11 per cent from Monday, took many market-watchers by surprise.

"All the ingredients for a rate

cut were there but I don't think many people expected it today," said Mario Noera, economist at Euromobiliare.

On the futures exchange, the Italian September bond future surged 44 basis points to a new high of 100.68 but the lira only weakened slightly to 913.50 against the mark from 912 just before the news.

Many financial experts said there was scope for Italian interest rates to fall further in the next few months even if the Bundesbank keeps German rates unchanged.

Approval of the 1994 budget

its public debt and will help industry emerge from the worst recession in more than 20 years.

It should also allow the treasury to reduce its budget deficit targets, which stand at 155 trillion lire (\$106 billion) this year and only slightly less for 1994.

Many financial experts said there was scope for Italian interest rates to fall further in the next few months even if the Bundesbank keeps German rates unchanged.

Mr. Noera said there was space for Italian rates to ease another one and a half percentage points by the end of the year

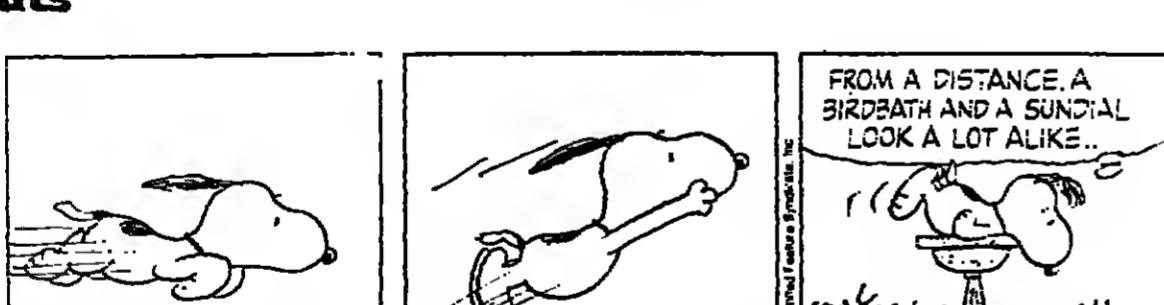
package, due to be presented to parliament in July, could be the signal for another reduction, analysts said.

The lira has strengthened dramatically since hitting record lows of around 1,000 against the mark two months ago on worries stemming from Italy's devastating political corruption scandal.

External debt as a proportion of gross national product (GNP) fell to an estimated 5.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent in 1991.

The debt service burden as a percentage of total exports fell to 18 per cent in 1992, from 20.7 per cent a year earlier.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Four UAE banks to merge

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Four more banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are planning to merge after overcoming problems caused by a large government debt, bankers and stockbrokers said Saturday.

"They said the National Bank of Sharjah Ltd. (NBOS) would merge with the Bank of Sharjah (BOS) while the other merger would involve the United Arab Bank (UAB) and the Investment Bank for Finance and Trade (IBFT)."

The plans follow an announce-

ment by the Central Bank that it would offer incentives to merging banks as part of a drive to strengthen the local banking sector to face growing world competition and meet international standards outlined by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS).

"The merger has nothing to do with any financial problems because we have managed to solve them," IBFT General Manager Sami Farhat, told AFP by telephone from Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the UAE.

"As you see giant banking units are emerging in the world and competition is increasing. Sharjah also is too small for four banks. The merger will give birth to two larger units but the plans are still in the beginning."

NBOS has a capital of 260 million dirhams (\$70.8 million) and BOS of around 80 million dirhams (\$21.7 million). The capital of UAB and IBFT stood at 90 million dirhams (\$24.5 million) and 135.5 million dirhams (\$36.9 million) respectively.

The merger plans follow a settlement this year between the four banks and the Sharjah government for a debt of around two

billion dirhams (\$544 million) that had accumulated over the past eight years.

"According to my information, the decision on the mergers has been approved by the four banks and the monetary authorities in the country," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading UAE stockbroker.

"I expect it to take place this year."

It will be the third major bank merger in the UAE in the past decade. In 1985 three national banks merged into the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, now one of the biggest four banks in the Gulf state. In the same year, them Emirati Bank International acquired two troubled local banks and a third one in 1991.

A central bank official said it would support the new mergers but declined to specify the incentives.

"We hope other national banks will follow suit as this will strengthen our banking sector," he said.

The UAE currently has 19 national banks and 27 foreign units with assets of nearly 160 billion dirhams (\$43.5 billion). Most local banks made record profits in 1992.

## Omani oil, gas output rise

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oman Friday reported an increase in its oil and gas production in 1992 and said other sectors continued to grow as a result of attempts to diversify sources of income.

Oil output rose to an average 742,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 1992 from 709,000 b/d in 1991 while gas production increased to two billion cubic metres from 1.8 billion cubic metres, the official Omani news agency said.

Despite the increases, oil reserves went up to 4.5 billion

barrels from 4.3 billion barrels and gas to 369 billion cubic metres from 297 billion cubic metres.

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but it has followed the group's policies on prices and production. Omani officials expect oil and gas reserves to increase in future as the Gulf state steps up exploration in new areas.

The report said the oil sector's share in the gross domestic product (GDP) dropped to 40.8 per

cent in 1992 from 46.6 per cent in 1991 due to a government drive to boost other sectors, mainly industries.

It said the GDP rose to \$11.6 billion in current prices from \$10.2 billion and the trade balance registered a surplus of \$1.68 billion in 1992 compared with \$1.38 billion in 1991.

Oil exports accounted for 83.2 per cent of the total exports in 1992 and Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea remained the main clients, it said.

## Disney enters joint venture with Saudi company

DUBAI (R) — Walt Disney Co. has entered a joint venture with a Saudi Arabian company to license and promote Disney products in the kingdom and other Gulf Arab states, a joint statement said Saturday.

The joint venture, the Walt Disney Company Gulf Arabia Ltd. which is Disney's first licensing venture in a Gulf Arab state, brings together Walt Disney Co. and the Saudi Arabian Contracting and Trading Company Ltd. (CTC).

The statement said the venture has appointed CTC Consumer Products, a division of CTC, as the "exclusive consumer products licensing entity for Disney" in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

"CTC Consumer products will license the use of Disney properties on books and magazines, character merchandise, children's records and in connection with tie-in promotions and retailer support," it said.

It said it would initially introduce Disney products from licenses in Europe and the United States.

In a separate statement, Dennis Hightower, president of Disney Consumer Products Europe and Middle East, said Walt Disney entered the joint venture because it "recognises Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states as a diversified and complex market of ever-growing importance."

## Kuwait says it will increase oil production only gradually

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Kuwait's oil minister was quoted Saturday as reiterating that his country would act "responsibly" by only gradually increasing oil output.

The minister, Ali Al Baghli, spoke in an interview with the London-based Arabic-language daily Al Hayat after his country rejected an OPEC formula under which Kuwait would only have won a modest output increase.

"It is correct that we rejected (the agreement)... but in spite of that, we said clearly and frankly that we will act in a responsible manner, practice self-discipline, and watch the markets and prices very closely," he told the London-based Lebanese daily, which also is published in Bahrain.

Sheikh Al Baghli was interviewed by the newspaper in Geneva following a three-day meeting of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"They told us we will give you part of the quota now and another part later, but I don't have any more confidence in OPEC's pledges," Al Hayat quoted him as saying in Geneva.

Kuwait has stated it has the right under a previous OPEC agreement to pump as much as 2.16 million bpd by the end of September.

Sheikh Baghli told Al Hayat the other OPEC members were unrealistic in their new output plan. "The output ceiling should be put at 24 million barrels per day at least," he said.

## World Bank lends Morocco \$234 million

RABAT (R) — The World Bank has lent Morocco \$234 million to finance cheap housing and regional development projects, the official news agency MAP said Saturday.

The bank will contribute \$130 million to a housing project for low-income families costing an estimated \$321.5 million. Government agencies and commercial banks will finance the rest.

The bank will also contribute \$104 million to the \$182.3-million cost of a regional programme for building roads, and improving drinking water distribution, sewerage and domestic refuse disposal.

The two loans at standard interest rates are for 20 years with five-year grace periods, the agency said.

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## Attack on Sarajevo funeral kills 8

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Eight people were killed and five injured in Sarajevo Saturday in an artillery attack on a Muslim funeral, U.N. officials said.

It was the worst attack of its kind in Sarajevo since 15 people were killed and more than 100 injured when shells slammed into a soccer game near Sarajevo airport two weeks ago.

Reuter journalists saw the bodies being removed from an ancient Turkish cemetery in Sarajevo's old town district, and at the main city mosque.

United Nations officials said the round had been fired from the direction of Serb positions, apparently from a recoilless rifle. A U.N. spokesman confirmed that eight people had died and five had been wounded.

Earlier reports had said a mortar bomb hit mourners.

Sarajevo resident Ahmed Karasic, 33, said the attack came as he was burying his mother, Fatima, who had been killed in a mortar attack in the city two days ago. His father and brother were wounded in that same incident. "We couldn't hear anything except the explosion. There was a terrible commotion and lots of smoke," Mr. Karasic said.

People living near the Budakovic cemetery said Saturday's shot was fired from Mount Trebevic, where Serb positions overlook the besieged Bosnian capital.

In the Muslim cemetery, with its distinctive gravestones carved

in the shape of turbans, large pools of blood stained the soil by the graveside. Broken tree branches, flowers, shoes, hats and pieces of flesh were also strewn around the area where the explosive struck.

In southern Bosnia, Spanish U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldier was killed by Bosnian Croat forces, bringing to 46 the number of U.N. troops slain in the former Yugoslavia, UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said here Saturday.

The Spanish soldier was a first lieutenant leading a patrol of armoured personnel carriers across Tito bridge in Mostar Friday evening.

They were moving from Muslim-held to Croatian-held positions on a mission to deliver medical supplies when the patrol "came under intense fire" of small arms and light machine guns from Bosnian Croat HVO positions, Mr. Frewer said.

UNPROFOR British forces had killed two Croatan militia near Vitez in central Bosnia earlier Friday while defending a humanitarian convoy. It was not clear if there was a link between the two incidents.

The convoy that has come under repeated attack by Bosnian Croat forces struggled to make its way across central Bosnia Saturday, with about 20 of its vehicles missing.

Meanwhile Sarajevo radio re-

ported more Serb attacks on the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

A British U.N. spokesman in Vitez said European Community monitors said British troops were looking for vehicles that were part of the 500-vehicle convoy and that had apparently been taken away by Bosnian Croat forces.

The caravan is bound for the Serb besieged Muslim city of Tuzla in the northeast.

The spokesman said the number of missing vehicles was about 20 and that they might have been taken to a quarry in Vitez.

He had reported Friday that a group of Croat militiamen continued to stop vehicles, forced about 30 people off and taken them to the central town of Vitez.

The head of the EC monitoring mission in Bosnia, Jean-Pierre Thebaud, was talking to local commanders about this, the spokesman said.

In another development, Bosnian Serb forces on Saturday freed some 800 Bosnian Croat soldiers in exchange for Serb troops, the Tanjug news agency said, citing military officials.

The prisoner exchange was agreed after talks Friday between officials from the self-declared Serb republic in Bosnia, and the Croatian equivalent, called Hertzeg-Bosna, according to Tanjug.

Several hundred Croatan sol-

diers and civilians were picked up by Serb forces after they fled the central Bosnian city of Travnik, which fell into Muslim hands during the week.

As well as organising the prisoner exchange, the two sides also agreed that civilians should be allowed freedom of movement in Serb and Croat-controlled territory, Tanjug said.

The Serb side was led by Bosnian Serb Premier Vladimir Lukic and Bosnian Serb military number two General Milan Gvero, while the Croats were represented by Herzeg-Bosna president Jadranko Prlic and General Milivoj Petkovic, head of Bosnian Croat forces.

In Paris, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, on a "last chance" tour of Europe, pleaded with French leaders Saturday for weapons to allow his embattled Muslim people to defend themselves.

"This is not horse-trading," the minister told reporters Friday at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

After Mr. Kang spoke, Robert Gallucci, assistant U.S. secretary of state for political-military affairs, confirmed Washington had offered no concessions.

"In the near term, there is no change to the current circumstances," Mr. Gallucci said, adding that North Korea still will not allow inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency of two suspected nuclear facilities.

Mr. Gallucci said Washington is hoping to negotiate full inspection. Further negotiations between the two governments are to resume at a later, unspecified date, he added.

North Korea would have become the first nation to withdraw in the 23-year history of the pact, which provides for nuclear inspections by foreign observers to ensure that nuclear weapons do not spread.

## N. Korea steps back on nuclear treaty withdrawal

NORTH KOREA (AP) —

North Korea defused a crisis by — at least temporarily — reversing its decision to withdraw from a treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. But U.S. and North Korean officials say other nuclear issues remain unresolved.

The hardline communist country was to leave the 153-nation treaty Saturday.

Kang Sok Ju, a vice foreign minister, said North Korea had decided to "suspend" its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), indicating it could change its mind.

He said the decision was not a result of U.S. pressure.

The North announced its pull-out March 12 after barring an inspection of a suspected reactor and reprocessing plant at Yongbyon. The prohibition heightened concern that North Korea, despite its denials, was developing nuclear arms.

United States intelligence reports said North Korea may have the materials to assemble at least one nuclear bomb.

South Korea on Saturday welcomed the decision, but emphasised that inspections, both international and bilateral, were necessary to fully resolve the issue.

If North Korea were to have nuclear weapons, South Korea and Japan might try develop their own nuclear stockpiles as deterrents.

North Korea's conditions for

staying in the nuclear accord have included cancellation of U.S.-South Korean military exercises, withdrawal of 36,000 U.S. troops from South Korea and a pledge by the United States not to use nuclear weapons in Korea.

Mr. Gallucci said that the talks did not include the possible normalization of U.S.-North Korea relations. The two governments do not have diplomatic relations.

Protests banned

In Seoul, South Korean riot police sealed off a university campus Saturday and blocked about 4,000 students trying to march to the border with North Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korean radio claimed that 200 people, including a dozen North Korean student leaders, staged an anti-U.S. protest at the border village of Panmunjom.

"Out with U.S. troops," protesters shouted at the border, according to the state-run Naver Press, which monitors North Korean broadcasts.

A South Korean militant student organisation had announced earlier that it planned to meet Northern students at the sealed and heavily fortified Korean border to discuss unification of the divided peninsula.

## Japanese who lost memory returns after 56 years

TOKYO (R) — An elderly Japanese who lost his memory after being wounded in China before World War II is returning home after 56 years, news reports said Saturday. Toshiro Ishida, a frail 81-year-old, flew into Osaka, western Japan, from Shanghai, China, Friday with his brother Kajuro, 63. Mr. Ishida, whose identity was confirmed by DNA tests, lost most of his memory and the ability to speak after being hit in the head by a bullet shortly before Japan and China went to war in 1937, the news reports said.

Mr. Ishida was captured by Chinese communist troopers and went missing. He later earned a living by teaching agricultural techniques using gestures, the reports said.

Members of a Japan-China Friendship group discovered Mr. Ishida two years ago and brought him to a hospital in Osaka, where he was given DNA tests.

"I am very happy to be back home," Mr. Ishida said. "I am very happy to be back home," he said.

A South Korean militant student organisation had announced earlier that it planned to meet Northern students at the sealed and heavily fortified Korean border to discuss unification of the divided peninsula.

Court allows ancient religion's ritual of animal sacrifice

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Friday that a community's ban on animal sacrifices in church rituals violates religious freedom.

The highest court struck down a ban on such rituals at Hialeah, Fla.

and said religious groups have a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services. The laws in question were enacted by officials who did not understand.

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Prince Norodom Chakrapong, announcing the zone's secession



## Big names injured, losing, and absent as Wimbledon approaches

WIMBLEDON (AP) — It just isn't been a good week for big names in tennis. And with Wimbledon only 10 days away, the gamblers at the All England Club must be hoping things will get better.

Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf, the defending singles champions, both injured and doubts have been raised whether either will be to return for a title defense. French Open champion Sergi Bruguera isn't injured; he's simply not coming, thus depriving Wimbledon of the sport's newest and Slam winner.

Throw in Pete Sampras' homesickness, Martina Navratilova's upper, and the indefinite absence from the tour of Monica Seles and you have the kind of vane publicity that Wimbledon could do without.

Agassi, suffering with tendinitis in his right wrist, has been sent from the tour since April. He gave up his hope that the 23-year-old would just go away and instead to a cortisone shot administered by a specialist in late Monday.

His agent, Bill Shelton, was as saying Agassi's wrist was free of pain for the first time in days. The 23-year-old was oddly waiting for his doctor's mission Friday to pick up a set and start practicing again.

Indication of his progress is known in three days' time, as the American is due to play at a grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany.

Latest reports on Graf say the 23-year-old was told to lay off tennis a week, after being diagnosed with periorchitis, an inflammation of the membrane of tissue covering a bone in her foot.

Periorchitis is a very painful injury which threatens without doubt Steffi's participation at Wimbledon." Graf's doctor, Dr. Krahl, was quoted as saying in the French newspaper *Le Monde*.



Stefan Edberg

Edberg upset by unknown Australian

Second seed Stefan Edberg suffered a shock defeat by reformed Australian beach bum Jamie Morgan to join other favourites on the sidelines at the London Grass Court Championships at Queen's Friday.

Edberg's 4-6 7-6 6-3 elimination by the bearded 21-year-old Australian left Michael Stich as the favourite to win the prestigious Wimbledon warm-up title Sunday.

None of the leading four seeds has reached the semifinals but Stich, seeded sixth, looked impressive as he won an all-German power battle with Boris Becker 6-4 7-6.

He will face the unseeded Morgan in the semifinals.



Andre Agassi

Defending champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, the seventh seed, kept up his hopes of a repeat victory by disposing of giant young German Marc Goettl 6-4 6-4.

Ferreira's semifinal opponent will be 11th-seeded American Todd Martin, who put out compatriot David Witt 6-4 6-2.

Morgan, who until he decided to get serious about tennis used to spend his time surfing on Sydney's Bondi Beach, served 22 aces at Edberg and saved two match points in the second set tie-break which he won 11-9.

He then broke the Swede's serve, with the help of a foot-fault call against Edberg, in the eighth game of the final set before serving out for victory.

"This has given me a big buzz," said Morgan, ranked 83rd in the world. "I've had some close matches with big players that maybe I let slip."

"I've been pretty inconsistent in my career. But I knew that if I served well I had a chance against Stefan. I've practised with him and that helped."

Edberg saved that break point with a great serve but Morgan produced two fine passing shots to snatch the game.

"I had my chances but didn't take them," Edberg said. "He served very well."

Stich began like a runaway train against Becker. He led 3-0 and was 30-0 ahead on Becker's serve before the three-times Wimbledon champion got going.

Two loose points in the 10th game cost Becker the set but he had better chances in the second.

In the tie-break, however, Stich broke Becker's serve twice early and won it easily 7-2.

Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion, said later he felt he was playing the best grass court tennis of his life. Becker did not disagree.

Ferreira exposed the deficiencies in grass of German Marc Goettl, whose fine clay court season included victory in the Nice Tournament.

He was too erratic against Ferreira, serving 10 double faults including four in one game in the first set.

**Masur shocks Krajicek**

In the Netherlands big-serving Richard Krajicek, playing on his home turf at Rosmalen, was dumped out of the tournament in the quarter-finals by Australia's Wally Masur Friday.

Masur won a nail-biting second-set tie-break 16-14 to complete a 6-3, 7-6 win over the world No. 12, who was seeded second here and had been seen as a good outside bet for this year's Wimbledon.

But Masur, who at the age of 30 has achieved his highest-ever ranking of 23, showed the Dutchman there is a lot more than raw power to being a good grass court player.

The Australian's deft touch at the net and his ease of movement made Krajicek look lumbering and flat-footed.

Masur now has a great chance to win the tournament in the absence of Krajicek and top seed Andrei Medvedev, who lost in the second round.

The Australian plays American Malivai Washington, who beat France's Cedric Pioline in straight sets, for a place in the final.

The other semi-final will be between Arnaud Boetsch of France and Alexander Volkov of Russia.

**Garrison-Jackson goes indoors for victory**

In Birmingham, England, bad weather forced Zina Garrison-Jackson indoors, as the American reached the quarterfinals of the Edgbaston Women's Grass-Court Tournament by beating Katrina Adams 6-3, 6-2.

Play had to be moved under cover after torrential rain and thunderstorms made the outdoor unplayable.

"Today it was good for me to play indoors because the ball had a little higher bounce," Garrison-Jackson said of the 67-minute victory over her fellow American on the hard surface. "I'd rather play Katrina indoors than outdoors because she hits a lot of spin and on grass you have to get a lot lower."

"I've been pretty inconsistent in my career. But I knew that if I served well I had a chance against Stefan. I've practised with him and that helped."

Edberg saved that break point with a great serve but Morgan produced two fine passing shots to snatch the game.

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## NBA FINALS

### Jordan leads Chicago to 111-108 victory

PHOENIX (AP) — Charles Barkley played like the Most Valuable Player, Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls played like champions and made history Friday night.

Barkley scored 42 points and had 13 rebounds and played with special fire from start to finish, but it was Jordan's 42 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists that carried the Bulls to a 111-108 victory that pulled them ever closer to their third consecutive championship.

"The most important thing now is game 3," Jordan said. "That puts us in the driver's seat for what we want to do with history. I don't think it's in our best interest to go home to relax. We need to go back and keep the pressure on them."

Never before has a team started the NBA finals with two victories on the road, and the outcome makes the Bulls an overwhelming favourite to win another title. The next three games of the best-of-7 series are scheduled for Chicago Stadium, starting Sunday night with game 3.

Jordan got plenty of help, with Horace Grant scoring 24 points and Scottie Pippen coming through with 15 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists.

A 3-pointer by Dan Majerle pulled the Suns even at 87-87 in the first minute of the fourth quarter, the first tie since the first half.

Three more ties and two lead changes followed in the next three minutes before the Bulls took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by John Paxson, his first points of the game.

Jordan kept Chicago in front by scoring the next 10 points for the Bulls, giving them a 106-98 advantage on a jumper with 1:33 left.

Danny Ainge, who scored nine of his 20 points in the last 1:27, followed with a 3-pointer and a layup, pulling the Suns to 106-103 with 58 seconds remaining. Three free throws by Pippen and two by Jordan kept Chicago safely in front and the Suns made it close with a 3-pointer at the buzzer by Ainge.

The situation looks bleak for Phoenix, but the Suns are no stranger to play-off deficits.

The Suns became the eighth team in NBA history to rally from an 0-2 hole to win a play-off series when they beat the Los Angeles Lakers in the best-of-5 first round. The Bulls then became the ninth team to do it when they defeated New York after losing the first two games of the best-of-7 Eastern Conference finals.

The Bulls led 59-53 at halftime despite a spectacular first half by Barkley, whose 25 points on 10-for-14 shooting exceeded his first-game point total by four.

**Barkley feels friendless** Despite 42 points, 12 rebounds and his deserved status of Most Valuable Player, Charles Barkley said being down 0-2 in the NBA finals reminds him that he has no friends.

"That's why you can't get close to nobody, these people are not your friends unless you do them well," Barkley said after Phoenix's loss to Chicago in game 2 of the NBA finals. "That goes for the media, that goes for the fans, because when you're playing well, everybody's swinging on your jock, but when things go bad everybody turns against you."

"That's why I'm my own man and I ain't close to noboy."

Barkley helped his team to the best record in the NBA this season and the finals' home-court advantage. Despite his third 40-point outing in the last two rounds, the Suns came up short, and he knows it is a long way back.



Jordan's national team

## World Cup qualifying matches

### Jordan again draws with Yemen

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN MANAGED a 1-1 draw with Yemen Saturday in the opening match of the second leg of the Asian Group A qualifying matches for the 1994 World Cup.

The match held at Chengdu Stadium, China, put Jordan in third place with 5 points in the overall standings of the group which also includes China, Iraq and Pakistan.

The Jordanian team totally dominated the first half of the match, but squandered many chances that would have given them an early lead.

Jamal Ahm Abd lost an easy chance close to the Yemeni goal at the beginning of the match.

Jordan's striker, Mohamad Al Ashhal, had a definite chance blocked by Yemeni goalie Ahmad Al Sumeini in the 15th minute. Two minutes later a short-range header by Al Ashhal hit the post.

The Kingdom's team, who would have considerably improved their standing had they scored a win, depended on long-range shots to avoid the Yemeni defence. However the first half ended scoreless.

At the beginning of the second half, Jordan's Hisham Abdul Mun' em had a shot

blocked by the Yemeni goalie. Moments later, Yemen's Sharif al Maftouh took advantage of a scattered Jordanian defence to score his team's goal in the 5th minute.

Yemen continued to attack, hoping to score a second goal to secure the win and capitalise on their five points in the overall standings after their surprise 1-0 win over China in the first leg in Irbid two weeks ago.

Jordan, who played the match missing the efforts of key defenders Yousef Al Amour, Muhammad Mahfouz and Ahmad Abdul Oader, scored the equalising goal by Aref Hussein in the 76th minute.

Nart Yadij twice lost the chance to give Jordan the win and a perfectly executed goal by Jiryes Tadros was ruled offside by the referee ending the match in yet another draw for Jordan.

Jordanian players, officials and especially fans were greatly disappointed when the team finished fourth after the first leg, drawing 1-1 with Yemen and Iraq, losing 3-0 to China and scoring their only win 3-1 over Pakistan.

After drawing in Saturday's match, the Jordanian team has practically lost any chance of qualifying for the second round, as they need to score wins and goals to compete with Iraq and China to win the group.

China faced Pakistan in Saturday's late match.

**Jordan's team:** Mohammed Abu Daoud, Ahmad Al Khazraji, Ahmad Al Sharari, Mufrad Al Horani, Firas Al Khalilieh, Subhi Suleiman, Aref Hussein, Jamal Ahm Abd, Mohammed Al Ashhal (Nart Yadij), Jiryes Tadros, Hisham Abdul Mun' em.

## Standings after Saturday's 1st match

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	4	3	1	-	16	2	7
Yemen	5	2	2	1	9	9	6
Jordan	5	1	3	1	6	7	5
China	4	2	-	2	8	2	4
Pakistan	4	-	-	4	2	21	0

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH KIRSH

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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**Q.1**—Neither vulnerable; as South you hold:

**Q.2**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

**Q.3**—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.4**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

**Q.5**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.6**—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.7**—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.8**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

**Q.9**—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.10**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.11**—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.12**—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

**Q.13**—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.14**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.15**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.16**—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.17**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.18**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.19**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.20**—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

**Q.21**—Both vulnerable,

## Lebanon likely to join Damascus declaration

ABU DHABI (AP) — Eight Arab countries opened a two-day meeting Saturday after reportedly giving their initial approval for Lebanon to join their post-Gulf war security and economic pact.

The foreign ministers of the eight states met to discuss the future of the March 1991 pact, called the Damascus declaration, and to seek ways to heal rifts in the Arab World.

"This meeting is held amid sincere wishes for improving inter-Arab relations and coping with the call for forgiveness, solidarity and patching up Arab differences," the United Arab Emirates (UAE) foreign minister, Rashid Abdullah, said in an opening address.

After a brief opening ceremony at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel, a short closed-door session was attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

Diplomats here said the foreign ministers were likely to recommend to their leaders to accept the Lebanese request to sign the Damascus declaration, and address had given initial approval.

Farouk Al Sharraa of Syria and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak of Bahrain already have openly supported Lebanon's bid to join the pact.

When it was signed two years ago the agreement was to pave the way for tens of thousands of Egyptian and Syrian troops to form the nucleus of a Gulf defense force.

That plan has not come to fruition and Gulf states instead

have signed defence agreements with Western nations. But the economic dimension of the Damascus pact remains, with Gulf states offering billions of dollars in aid to their poorer Arab brethren over the next few years.

"Syria will be among the first supporters of Lebanon's joining the declaration when the issue is discussed," Mr. Sharraa said in an arrival statement.

"Bahrain supports the Lebanese request on the basis that this grouping is established on Arab solidarity within the framework of the Arab League," said Sheikh Mohamad.

The sister country of Lebanon is facing a critical juncture in its history, and it has adopted Arab stances which entitle it to join the grouping and work with us in the march for Arab solidarity."

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the six Gulf Arab countries already had discussed the Lebanese request at a foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh earlier in the week.

But they decided not to take action until they meet with their Egyptian and Syrian counterparts.

Lebanon, which has close links with Syria, expressed its wish to sign the declaration a few months back in statements by Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, the diplomats said.

Diplomats said the eight ministers also will discuss the crucial issue of Gulf security, especially Iran's relations with the Gulf Arab states following the agreement of Iran and the UAE to resume talks on three disputed islands.

## Algeria said planning referendum in October

ALGIERS (AP) — Algerians may get to vote in a referendum in October for a transitional authority to replace the military-backed government that canceled their last elections.

Newspapers reported Saturday that the ruling High State Council and political parties should hold a national conference July 5 focused on setting up a new government and the referendum.

The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will not take part.

The referendum plans reported in the press came after a dinner for editors hosted by two high

state council members, Redha Malek and Ali Haroun. They have not been officially confirmed.

According to the press accounts, the national conference will start work July 5 to draft a "platform" for a transitional authority to run from two to five years.

The ruling panel would be reduced from five members to three. The unelected, advisory consultative committee drawn from different sectors of society would be increased from 60 to up to 300 members.

## U.N. forces pound Aideed bases

(Continued from page 1)

peacekeepers in Somalia.

But a defiant spokesman for Gen. Aideed may have plenty more hidden away.

"He's not out of business, but I bet he's pretty shaky today," said U.S. Major General Thomas Montgomery, deputy commander of the more than 18,000 U.N.

peacekeepers in Somalia.

But a defiant spokesman for Gen. Aideed warned the attack would lead to more unrest. And a Somali radio broadcast was heard hurling abuse at the U.N. troops for the attack, calling them "imperialist bootlickers."

## Delegates head for Washington

(Continued from page 1)

dan Phosphates Mines Co.; Ahmad Qatanani, former director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs; Hani Al Mulki, president of the Royal Scientific Society and chairman of the Higher Council of Science and Technology; Dureid Mahasneh, director general of the Ports Corporation; Michel Marto, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Mohammad Alwan, a professor of international affairs at Yarmouk University; and Hisham Bahan, legal advisor at the Crown Prince's office.

The advisors will join the delegation only when needed.

Heads of Arab delegations to the peace talks are expected to hold a meeting in Washington prior to opening the bilateral talks Tuesday to exchange views and coordinate stands on the peace process.

Advisors to the delegation are Taher Kanaan, former minister; Ibrahim Badran, advisor at the Prime Ministry; Wasef Azar, former director general of the Jordanian team to multilateral talks on disarmament; ambassadors Hassan Abu Neesh, Shaker Arabyat and Navef Al Oadhi, Awn Khasawneh, advisor to the Crown Prince, Brigadier-General Abdul Ilah Al Kurdi from the General Intelligence Department; Musa Breizat from the Royal Court; and Marwan Muasher, who heads the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington. Dr. Muasher is also spokesman of the delegation.

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